

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 850 - HB 1552**

March 17, 2009

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Prohibits universal mental health testing or psychiatric or socio-emotional screening of juveniles unless consented to by a parent or guardian, ordered by the court, done on an emergency basis in connection with a disaster or epidemic, or as required by the Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program. Prohibits a local education agency (LEA) from using a parent's refusal of medication or screening as grounds for not allowing the child to participate in classes or school-related activities or as a basis for child abuse, child neglect, educational abuse, or medical neglect. Limits LEA staff who can perform an evaluation and requires the LEA to inform each parent of his or her rights under the provisions of the bill.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant**

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Education, there will not be a significant increase in state expenditures incurred because of regulation changes. Any cost can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.
- According to the Department of Education, this issue is addressed in the federal IDEA law.
- Any cost to local boards of education to adopt policies to carry out the provisions of the bill is estimated to be not significant and can be handled within existing resources.

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**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "White" clearly legible, and "W." in the middle.

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml